

not just his colleagues in my Washington office, but the district-based staff in Fort Worth as well. Aaron will be missed for his work, but even more for his presence as a colleague.

On behalf of Texas' 12th Congressional District, I offer Aaron a heartfelt thank you and best wishes for the future.

**INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR INTERIM APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND RELATED AGENCIES WITH RESPECT TO ANY FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH APPROPRIATIONS ARE NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR SUCH COURTS AND AGENCIES**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, December 8, 2021*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would exempt from federal government shutdowns the federal and independent civil and criminal justice system law enforcement agencies that are exclusively or primarily federally funded but have exclusive jurisdiction over District of Columbia matters. This bill is modeled on a provision I have been able to get enacted each year since the 2013 federal government shutdown to exempt the D.C. government from federal government shutdowns.

This bill would exempt the following agencies from federal government shutdowns: Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for D.C., D.C. Courts, D.C. Public Defender Service, D.C. Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure, D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and D.C. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. With one exception, these agencies are not under the District's control and are funded exclusively by the federal government. The D.C. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is an independent agency within the D.C. government with federal members that is primarily, but not exclusively, funded by the federal government. These agencies provide critical local services to the District, including law enforcement, and should continue to function during a federal government shutdown.

Each of these agencies has been adversely affected by federal government shutdowns, including canceled services and furloughed employees. My bill would allow these agencies to continue to function during a federal government shutdown, in much the same way that the D.C. government itself is now exempt from shutting down during a federal government shutdown. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

HONORING MR. SOHUM PAWAR

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, December 8, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of our team that worked to evacuate vulnerable Afghans during the fall of Kabul, Mr. Sohumi Pawar.

Originally from East Hanover, New Jersey, for many years, Mr. Pawar has worn many hats—scientist, engineer, and policy researcher. Since graduating with honors from little-known schools such as Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he's worked on cybersecurity, climate, and energy policy at the White House, assisted negotiators at the U.S. Department of State working on UN climate talks, and written speeches for the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Beyond public service, he's also worked as a cyber threat intelligence analyst, assessed clean energy startups for a climate-focused venture capital fund, and developed policy and strategy for an advanced nuclear reactor startup. He also has experience in journalism, conducting research for David Sanger, the prominent national journalist for the New York Times and his bestselling book chronicling the rise of cyber warfare.

The knowledge and experience Mr. Pawar acquired in all of these ventures were heavily relied upon when he joined our cobbled-together effort working to evacuate vulnerable Afghans from Kabul. For several sleepless nights, he was part of our tiger team—responsible for gathering the required information for the group of Afghans, verifying the authenticity of documents, and supporting evacuees with letters of support of our own.

Our mission depended on a broad cross-section of skills and traits, from perseverance to grit. Very few people could have handled the flood of information that our office received during those frantic days, and even fewer as quickly and efficiently as Sohumi did. We needed Pawar's to succeed, and it is thanks to him that we did.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Sohumi Pawar for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul. For his meticulous record keeping, for his flexibility and perseverance, and for his dogged pursuit of any lead that would benefit the mission, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

HONORING RAVI S. PATEL

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, December 8, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ravi Patel, a valued member of our effort to evacuate Afghan nationals from Kabul to Tirana, Albania.

Mr. Patel has worked in several areas for several key players in the international arena, working as an advisor to former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry as well as serving as the consulting advisor for the executive director of the UN's Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. As a graduate student, he was the executive director of the Stanford University U.S.-Russia Forum, where he put on conferences, in Moscow and on Stanford's campus, in order to bring together students and young leaders from both countries and further the bilateral relationship.

Mr. Patel has always believed in the power of thinking outside the box to find solutions.

The buses that he sourced were ultimately used to carry more than 100 individuals to safety in their hour of greatest need. As they made it through winding Kabul streets until they made it inside the gate at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Mr. Patel was in close coordination with our team. He was Lt.Gen. McMaster's point person on our joint effort to evacuate them on a flight out of Kabul as well, helping to compile the flight manifest that airlifted men, women, and children—some as young as 2 years old—away from danger.

In fact, when one of our evacuees, a four-year old with a severe congenital heart defect, needed urgent medical attention, Mr. Patel sprang into action. He gathered letters of support from some of the top pediatric doctors and surgeons in order to bring her to the U.S. for treatment. Thanks to his relentless pursuit chasing down leads through every available channel, the little girl and her family were granted humanitarian parole and admitted to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Ravi Patel for his willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For his resourcefulness amidst the fog of uncertainty and the chaos of the evacuation as well as for his tireless work in the weeks since, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to his dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

HONORING ALAMEDA COUNTY  
SUPERVISOR WILMA CHAN

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Wednesday, December 8, 2021*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today, alongside Representative JUDY CHU, to honor the life of the late Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan, who tragically passed on November 3, 2021. We extend our deepest condolences to her children, grandchildren, family, staff, and loved ones, and to the people of Alameda County who she served so well during her 30-year career in public service.

Supervisor Chan was born in Boston, MA, after her parents immigrated there from China. She attended public schools and went on to receive her bachelor's degree in history from Wellesley College and her master's degree in education policy from Stanford University.

She was a trailblazer throughout her career. She was the first Asian American to serve on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, to which she was elected in 1994, and later became the first Asian American and first woman to hold the position of Majority Leader in the California State Assembly, where she represented the East Bay from 2000 to 2006. In 2010, voters reelected her to the Alameda Board of Supervisors, where she continued to serve until her tragic death.

Supervisor Chan's unyielding commitment to the wellbeing of children, families, and her most vulnerable constituents prevailed throughout her legislative career. During her tenure in the State Assembly, she authored groundbreaking legislation that successfully made California the first state to ban toxic flame retardants, which resulted in a significant decrease in how often those chemicals